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COOKE CARRIES WAR ON COMPETITORS TO RALEIGH

Introduces Bill in Legislature to Kill Army Stores—Aldermen Send P. H. Williams to Raleigh to Forestall Cooke With Another Bill

Failing to secure the passage of a city ordinance imposing a tax of \$1,000 on second hand clothing dealers before the Board of Aldermen Monday night, C. A. Cooke, who is at once a member of the local Retail Merchants' Association and a member of the N. C. General Assembly, took his ordinance to Raleigh this week, made a bill of it and dropped it into the Legislative Hopper a few minutes after the Speaker of the House called for the introduction of bills Tuesday morning.

Mr. Cooke is determined about this thing. These army goods stores seem to be making inroads on his own clothing business. Mr. Cooke has been yelling low prices and making "dirt cheap" his advertising slogan ever since he moved his stock of clothing and furnishings from Bertie County and recently he has entered Elizabeth City a class of Jewish merchants who have outdone him in the matter of cheap clothing and cheap goods. And when a pair of Jewish brethren erected a store on a vacant lot right in front of Cooke's store and displayed their wares for sale, it was too much for Mr. Cooke.

The Cooke is the prime mover in the matter of the army goods stores and second hand clothing dealers and enlisted the support of the Retail Merchants' Association. A committee of the Association drew up an ordinance to impose a tax of \$1,000 on second hand clothing dealers. This committee was composed of C. A. Cooke, Frank Cooke, a baker's apprentice, and W. S. White, a seed dealer. The ordinance didn't mean anything to the latter pair and the members of the Merchants' Association didn't know anything about it until Cooke got before the Board of Aldermen. Before the Board of Aldermen he had to stand by Cooke because he was a member of the Association and acting in the Association's name by authority of a committee sanctioned by the Association.

The Cooke's ordinance fared before the Board of Aldermen Monday night in the matter of new legislation offered, most of it in the nature of local bond issue measures, the hopes of early adjournment received a perceptible jolt in the number of bills offered. The Senate passed up a resolution setting Friday, December 16 as the day for the expiration of the session and Friday of this week as the final day in which roll call bills may be introduced. Brevity of session is clearly emphasized in the message sent to the House and the Senate by the Governor.

The new bill, drawn up by the Aldermen yesterday, would impose a tax of \$200 on itinerant merchants and an additional tax of \$50 on the sale of second hand goods. It also provides that anyone engaging in the pawnbroking business must pay a tax of \$250, which means that anyone conducting a business embracing all these lines would have to pay a total license of \$500.

The bill was submitted to the Merchants' Association yesterday afternoon for approval, before Mr. Williams left for Raleigh. This bill will likely meet with public approval. It is certain that Cooke's hasn't. Starting out with the old allegation that army stores ought to be put out of business because they sell unclean goods—a direct slander of the government itself—Mr. Cooke proposes to sterilize unclean goods by imposing a tax of \$1,000 on them. For \$1,000 Mr. Cooke would permit anybody to sell clothing carrying the germs of venereal and other diseases. He seems not so much concerned about the fact that itinerant merchants should be made to pay a tax commensurate with the taxes paid by established merchants.

Another bill introduced by Mr. Cooke in Raleigh this week is known as House Bill No. 90 "To change the Highway Commission in Pasquotank County." No one knows the nature of this bill. Mr. Cooke left here with a bill approved by the Highway Commission, authorizing the Commission to hire out the chain gang or abolish it by order of Court, in its discretion. The Highway Commission wants to get rid of the chain gang and use the money now spent upon its maintenance in working the roads another way. Whether Mr. Cooke has introduced this bill to abolish the chain gang or drawn up another bill is a matter of speculation. Likely as not he would abolish the Highway Commission itself if E. F. Ayldett told him to do it.

Dr. E. J. Griffin, representing this district in the State Senate, in a long distance telephone conversation yesterday advised this newspaper that he would not interfere with any legislation introduced by Mr. Cooke unless he was apprised of opposition to such legislation. If opposition is revealed to Senator Griffin he will hold any of Cooke's bills in the Senate Committees until the opposition can come to Raleigh and be heard.

129 Bills First Day
With 120 items of legislation, ranging

NORTH CAROLINA 'CHAMOIS SKIN'

An Unique Industry in North Carolina Depends Upon Sharks

By W. O. SAUNDERS.

When milady powders her face and rubs the powder in with a soft and luxurious skin which she thinks is Chamois, it probably isn't Chamois skin at all. Instead of being the skin of a fleet and agile goat-like animal that once leaped the chasms of the Tyrolean Alps or gamboled upon the precipitous cliffs of the Pyrenees, it may be just a part of an important testine of a bull shark taken on the North Carolina Coast.

Much of the so-called chamois skin of modern commerce is made from the fibrous intestine or sac that carries the seminal fluid of the male shark, and thousands of sharks caught on the North Carolina Coast supply the trade with these skins.

"Chamois skin" is but one of several articles of commerce obtained from the shark. From the hide of this sea monster a beautiful leather is obtained which is used extensively in the manufacture of shoes, gloves, purses, hand bags and leather goods of the finer sort. From the liver of the shark is extracted one of the most valuable oils of commerce. The fins of the shark are eagerly purchased by the Chinese and other Orientals. From the skull of the shark is taken a valuable gelatinous substance which science expects to use extensively in the treatment of mental diseases. And from the flesh and refuse fertilizer is made.

Probably the most important shark fishery in the world is located on the North Carolina Coast, near Morehead City. The plant is owned by the Ocean Leather Co., of New York City. It employs a force of ten or a dozen men in the preparation and manufacture of oil and fertilizer. The hides of the sharks are shipped to a tannery in Newark, N. J. The fins are sun dried and sold to the Chinese in New York and other Eastern cities. The Chinese consider these fins a great delicacy for soup making. Last year the Chinese in America couldn't consume all the fins produced at Morehead City and several shipments of fins were exported to Honolulu and Hong Kong.

An average shark yields about 12 pounds of dried fins for which the trade pays 60 cents a pound. The liver of the shark is rich in oil. As much as 210 pounds of oil has been taken from the liver of one shark. The same shark yields two and a half to three square feet of "chamois skin," say nothing of the hide which may be as big as a cow's.

How Sharks Are Caught.

The Ocean Leather Co. at Morehead City has three crews of fishermen engaged in the work of catching sharks. The sharks are caught in enormous gill nets made of stout rope. The shark fishermen set their nets for sharks in the ocean, just like the gill net fishermen set their nets for mullets in the inland sounds.

The sharks usually go into the nets at night and most of them drown in the nets in a few hours, robbing the fishermen of the exciting and extremely hazardous sport of taking them alive from the nets next morning. Occasionally a big and virile specimen will be alive when the net is fished. It is killed by spearing or by a blow on the head delivered with a hammer.

Sharks range in length from five to eighteen or twenty feet. The average length of sharks caught by the Morehead City fishermen is about twelve feet. A derrier is required to lift the monsters from the nets to the deck of the fishing steamer.

The catch of sharks, like the catch of other fish, is at all times uncertain. Some days there are no sharks at all; other days the crews bring in twenty-five or thirty of the monsters; some days more. The catch on Friday, Dec. 2, 1921, was 119 sharks ranging in length from five to seventeen feet each.

To Get 'Em With Dynamite.

The shark fishermen are looking for a better way of taking their game than by netting. Nets are altogether cumbersome and expensive. Once, at great expense, enormous baited hooks held to buoys at sea were employed, but the sharks either refused the bait or took the buoys out to sea when they took the bait. An investment of thousands of dollars in hooks and buoys had to be scrapped.

And now the Ocean Leather Co. plans to hunt the shark with dynamite. The boats will patrol the sea looking for schools of sharks and dynamite an entire school at one operation. The dynamiting of sharks was to have been attempted this fall and a cargo of dynamite was shipped from the East to Morehead City on the trim little schooner or Louise Howard. The Louise Howard arrived off Beaufort bar in a storm last August and went ashore. The schooner, valued at \$55,000 and its explosive cargo were a total loss. Luckily the cargo of dynamite did not explode and the crew was saved.

There are five varieties of true sharks caught on the North Carolina Coast. They are the Shovelnose, the Sandbar, the Blacktip, the Leopard and the Manatee. Then there is a small-

FOR EXCHANGE—1 three gallon cow and calf; want to trade for small horse or mule. See or write W. L. PERRY, Point Harbor, N. C.

FOR SALE—Choice large pecans, 55c per lb. Morrisette & Raper. p.d.9-11

These Fishermen Want More Territory



OPPOSITION having developed to a petition of the fishermen of Manns Harbor in Dare County to fish pound nets in an area of 2,000 by 3,000 yards at a point between Colington and Marshes Creek, north of Pamlico Island, the State Fisheries Commission Board will hold a special meeting in Elizabeth City, Thursday, Dec. 22, to hear arguments and render its decision. THE INDEPENDENT publishes herewith a photographic facsimile of a government chart with the territory wanted by the Manns Harbor fishermen indicated thereon. Fishermen at Manns Harbor claim that their present fishing grounds have been virtually destroyed by U. S. government dredges in Croatan Sound and they must have more ground or suffer a great financial loss.

er species known as the Puppy Shark or dogfish.

Odd Facts About Sharks.

Sharks are oviparous and ovoviviparous; which is the scientific way of saying that some of them lay eggs and others bear their young alive from eggs hatched in the body of the female. The shark is peculiarly endowed by nature with two organs of reproduction of equal size and potency—a fact of human as well as scientific interest, which should probably not be committed in any write-up on sharks.

The President of the Ocean Leather Co. is himself an interesting personality. He is Dr. Alfred Elronreich, a New York chemist and scientist. He began to study sharks on the West Coast of Africa about twenty years ago and in pursuing what was then to him only a scientific pastime, he discovered the commercial possibilities of this despised sea monster.

America began to establish its fisheries. In addition to the fishery at Morehead City, the Ocean Leather Co. has a smaller fishery at Sanibel Island, Fla., and another in the Bahama Islands.

THREE-FOURTHS OF THE MONEY STAYS AT HOME

Red Cross Christmas Seals Provide Funds For Local Relief Work

Elizabeth City is asked to buy \$300 worth of Red Cross Christmas seals between now and Christmas as "a contribution to the work of tubercular relief in North Carolina. It is a modest request the State Sanatorium makes of this city, inasmuch as Elizabeth City sends more free patients to Sanatorium, than any other town of like size in the state.

But only a small part of this money goes to the Sanatorium. Three-fourths of all the money received from the sale of these stamps is kept in Elizabeth City for the relief of local cases and as a fund to help defray the expenses of poor people to the Sanatorium.

Mrs. W. O. Saunders is in charge of the sale of Red Cross Xmas seals. She desires the help of a number of active women and girls in helping to get these seals before the public. She believes that every seal allotted this city could be sold in an afternoon if all the bridge and whist club members in the city would give up one afternoon's games and give just that much time to the sale of seals.

CHEAP LENSES ARE EXPENSIVE LENSES

There are no bargain days nor substitutes for good eye glasses. Cheaper materials can be substituted for almost anything except a correctly fitted lens. "Cheap" lenses oftentimes cause trouble of a more serious nature than the defects they are supposed to correct. Only people who have been trained to recognize defects of vision and to know how to make a proper correction are capable of advising on such an important subject as lenses. Avoid trouble by consulting reliable professional people and taking their advice.

DR. J. D. HATHAWAY

Optometrist
Bradford Bldg. Elizabeth City, N. C.

ELIZABETH CITY TALENT SHINES IN THIS OPERA

In "Esther, the Beautiful Queen" Frank Hufty Has Brought Out the City's Best in Both Vocal and Instrumental Music

THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE WASHINGTON
Dec. 1, 1921.
Dear Mr. Saunders:—
I have received clipping of your editorial "An Opportunity of a Life Time." Let me assure you that this Department has been doing everything possible to extend the exports of our corn. We have given special attention to getting some of this surplus to deal with it is too long a story to deal with in a letter, but I did not want you to entertain the impression that we have not been doing everything in our power along the lines indicated in your editorial.
Very truly yours,
HENRY WALLACE,
To Mr. W. O. Saunders,
Editor The Independent,
Elizabeth City, N. C.

A FEW ALDERMEN TRY TO TURN SELFISH TRICK

State Highway Engineers Don't Run Road To Suit Selden Streeters

Elizabeth City tax payers may look for the introduction of a bill in the present extra session of the General Assembly authorizing the Board of Aldermen to extend the city limits on Selden St. to as far as Ehringhaus St. with permission to pave Selden St. at the city's expense. And all because of the following innocent looking item appearing in the minutes of the Board of Aldermen under date of Thursday, Nov. 20, Read:

"It is moved and carried that this Board write proper authorities asking them that they use the Rum Road Survey for the State Highway entering this city from Hertford and that this Board hereby agrees to hard surface either Ehringhaus or Selden St. to the city limits."

The above resolution by the Board of Aldermen was passed out of regular session without public knowledge and the records do not show who voted for it. This newspaper is advised that only a few members were present at the meeting. Among these were W. H. Jennette who would be benefited by the Hertford Road coming thru Ehringhaus or Selden street; Roscoe Foreman, brother-in-law of Mr. Jennette, and C. W. Stevens, another property owner who might be benefited by the State Highway entering the city via Selden St. In the background appears Selden St. property owner.

The resolution passed by a few members of the Board of Aldermen in secret session is most unfortunate, in view of the trouble the State Highway Commission has encountered in dealing with road problems in this county. The State Highway Commission has one of the best engineering corps in America in its employ and the matter of selecting a route for the State Highway from Hertford thru this city was left to these engineers. The engineers have surveyed every route and determined upon a route, which leaves Rum Road at Carl Commander's farm and enters the city via Church St., making a more direct entry into the city at a saving of mileage, than would be the case if any of the present routes were approved. In the interest of economy and mileage the engineers have selected the shortest way into the city from the main highway, proposing to cut a new road for this purpose. But selfish interests can't be still and the State Highway Commission is made to believe that Elizabeth City thru its Board of Aldermen opposed to anything but a road that would benefit a few Selden St. property owners. And this newspaper doesn't believe the city as a whole cares a rap about it.

FOR SALE—Choice large pecans, 55c per lb. Morrisette & Raper. p.d.9-11

SHAD CAUGHT ON N. C. COAST IN NOVEMBER

Earliest Run of Shad Seen Here in Recent Years—One Caught in Alligator River

The continued warm weather of the past few weeks may have been responsible for the appearance of white shad on the North Carolina coast. Several boxes of shad have been shipped from Morehead City within the past few weeks, the earliest shipments on record at that great fish distributing center. These shad were caught in an ocean pound net. At least one shad has been caught in the inland waters of the state recently. Charlie Midgett, of Manns Harbor, caught a fine buck shad at the mouth of Alligator River on or about Thanksgiving Day.

NEW BROKERAGE FIRM OPENS IN ELIZABETH CITY

Elizabeth City has a new brokerage firm, The Fisher Brokerage Co., with offices in the First & Citizens National Bank Building. The members of the firm are J. D. Fisher and Mills E. Bell. Mr. Bell resigns his position as Auditor of Elizabeth City to give his entire time to the office work of the company while Mr. Fisher will give his time to the trade. Both men are experienced in the business in which they have embarked and both are hustlers. They will sell the jobbing trade only and have already secured a number of established and popular lines.

GLASSER WANTS TO GIVE CLOTHING TO THE POOR

Moses Glasser, who has recently opened a clothing store here, tells this newspaper that he will donate clothing to ten needy families of this city. He asks that the Red Cross furnish him with the names of ten of the most needy, in order that he may donate according to a plan he says he has long carried out each Christmas among the poor in Norfolk.

In the presentation of the opera "Esther" which closes its second performance in the High School Auditorium to-night, the Elizabeth City Choral Society has scored a great triumph. Frank R. Hufty, director of the Choral Society made no mistake in the selection of this particular vehicle. The music is simple and tuneful, the characters are fitted to the parts and the opera is crammed full of appealing choral numbers peculiarly adapted to a chorus recruited largely from the choirs of the various churches.

Two months have been consumed in tireless rehearsals by nearly a hundred local singers and musicians in the perfection of the local production. And then, to give the piece the proper color and atmosphere a gorgeous wardrobe of costumes costing more than \$5,000 was rented from the biggest theatrical costumer in America.

If Elizabeth City does not pack the High School Auditorium to-night and show its appreciation of the efforts put forth by the Choral Society, then Elizabeth City musical talent will be utterly discouraged and Elizabeth City doesn't deserve good music or anything beautiful.

The opera "Esther" is taken from the biblical book of that name. The scenes are laid in Persia in the year 510 B. C., according to the biblical narrative. Ahasuerus or Xerxes is King of Persia. After a feast of 187 days Xerxes has a quarrel with his wife Vashti because that lady would not array herself in her finest imperial regalia and display her charms to the revelers. He punts Vashti aside, as an example to all the other rebellious wives of his kingdom, and seeks another wife. Esther, the cousin and foster daughter of Mordecai, a Jew, is easily the prettiest woman in the kingdom and, the fact of her Jewish ancestry being concealed from Ahasuerus, she becomes queen of Persia.

With his foster daughter married to the king, Mordecai feels himself an important personage in the kingdom and hangs out around the palace gate. He interests himself in the affairs of state and pretends to have discovered an attempt upon the king's life and tells Esther, who in turn tells the king, and two conspirators are hanged.

After that Mordecai considered himself a superior person in the kingdom of Ahasuerus and, conscious of his relationship to the queen, he looks with contempt upon one Haman, the king's prime minister.

The opera opens with a gathering in the palace in which the throng composed of Persians, Jews, queen's maids, court officers, guards, couriers, and a chorus of 50 makes its obeisance to Haman. Everybody honors Haman except Mordecai who sits sneering at the palace gate.

Angered by the offensiveness of Mordecai, Haman complains to the king, who gives Haman permission to set aside a day upon which all the Jews in Persia might be slain.

Haman plans for the big killing of all the Jews and builds a gallows 75 feet high upon which to hang Mordecai. Then, the God isn't mentioned in the book of Esther, Mordecai with Jehovah favoring him gets busy and puts it squarely upon his daughter Esther to persuade the king to reverse his orders and save the Jews, or she herself will not escape the slaughter.

Esther succeeds in persuading the king to cancel his order, succeeds in having Haman hanged on the very gallows which he had built for Mordecai, has Mordecai installed as Premier of the realm to succeed Haman, and even persuaded the Persian monarch to give the Jews permission to kill so many Persians on the very day set aside by Haman for a Jewish massacre. The Jews joyfully killed 75,000 and 800 Persians on the great day and were filled with joy and gladness. This is the story, a typical old testament narrative.

Mrs. J. W. Foreman plays the role of Esther, the beautiful queen; J. C. B. Ehringhaus is king; H. A. Brownley is Haman, Larry Ennis Skinner is Mordecai; Mrs. W. C. Twiddy is Zeresh, the wife of Haman; Shelton Scott is the high priest; Miss Margaret Sheep is the prophetess; Misses Hattie Harney and Virginia Hufty are sisters of Mordecai. Many others of the city's best singers appear in the chorus and minor parts, including Harold Foreman, tenor; Mrs. Joe Greenleaf, soprano, and Mrs. L. E. Skinner, contralto.

Mrs. Foreman who takes the title role in the opera is easily the finest soprano in North Carolina, and there are a few good sopranos in North Carolina. She is fitted for far more difficult roles than the vehicle offered her. In this performance, and there are not enough solo and duet numbers to bring out her best qualities. Mr. Ehringhaus as Ahasuerus is every inch a king and well suited to the part of a youthful monarch, amorous enough and gracious enough to grant any prayer of a beautiful young queen. Mr. Brownley as the villain of the piece plays the role well, as he always does, and Mr. Skin-